

Plymouth Soup Run Monthly Report

In July 2021:

- Plymouth Soup Run served 2074 meals (an average of 67 meals per night, equivalent to 4 meals or 5% less per night than June, and 6 meals less or 9% less per night than July 2020); the year-to-date total is 13,915 meals served; food was delivered to the homes of 2 individuals who were unable to get to the Soup Run.
- Ample food donations were received from supermarkets, local shops, businesses, community groups and individuals; a hot meal is routinely served as well as sandwiches and snacks, and clients were also provided with tinned and dried food most nights, plus water and sunscreen as needed.
- Teams made 30 referrals to the Rough Sleeper Team and signposted 2 clients to HISS; they met 62 other rough sleepers (some referrals and sightings will have been of the same individuals on different nights); 74 sleeping bags/blankets were given out to rough sleepers; requests (also for a tent) exceeded supply on 5 nights.
- Clothing, underwear and toiletries were distributed most nights; there were a number of requests for shoes that could not be fulfilled.
- The Soup Run now has an Amazon wish list to complement other donations and provide items in particular demand.
- The Police and the Mental Health First Response team sought help from the Soup Run regarding individuals at risk.
- Paramedics were called on 2 occasions and 1 client received first aid from a trained volunteer; teams also reported concerns over depression and other issues affecting some clients; in follow up, contacts were made with Harbour, The Trevi Sunflower Women's Centre and Adelaide Street Surgery/GP Outreach.
- Teams received requests for food bank vouchers and the Soup Run Coordinator received at least 6 calls from people asking for help with access to food especially at weekends; one call was so concerning that the Mental Health First Response team was contacted.
- A newly recruited MARS worker is now joining the Soup Kitchen team every Sunday; on different nights teams were joined by a church minister in training, Community Health Outreach Nurses, workers from the Hepatitis C Trust, a worker from Shekinah, Street Pastors, and volunteers from StreetVet and food donors.
- Volunteers attended meetings of the Plymouth Food Aid Network including one on managing vicarious trauma, and in follow up, training by the Trauma Informed Plymouth Network is being arranged for volunteers in September; volunteers from several teams received training on the food labelling requirements that come into place in October 2021.
- A memorial service was held on 20th July for one client who had died recently.